



EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of 10 federal agencies that participate in the SBIR Program established by the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982. The purpose of this Act was to strengthen the role of small businesses in federally funded R&D and help develop a stronger national base for technical innovation. **A small business is defined as a for profit organization with no more than 500 employees.** In addition, the small business must be independently owned and operated, at least 51 percent owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted resident aliens, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is proposing, and have its principal place of business in the United States. Joint ventures and limited partnerships are eligible for SBIR awards, provided the entity created qualifies as a small business.

EPA issues annual solicitations for Phase I and Phase II research proposals from science- and technology-based firms. Under Phase I, the scientific merit and technical feasibility of the proposed concept is investigated. EPA awards firm-fixed-price Phase I contracts of up to \$70,000 and the period of performance for these contracts is typically 6 months. Through this phased approach to SBIR funding, EPA can determine whether the research idea, often on high-risk advanced concepts, is technically feasible, whether the firm can conduct high-quality research, and whether sufficient progress has been made to justify a larger Phase II effort.

Phase II contracts are limited to small businesses that have successfully completed their Phase I contracts. The objective of Phase II is to commercialize the Phase I technology. Competitive awards are based on the results of Phase I and the commercialization potential of the Phase II technology. In Phase II, EPA awards contracts of up to \$225,000 and the period of performance is typically 1 year. EPA also offers up to \$100,000 and 1 additional year as Phase II Options for firms with third-party financing for accelerating commercialization and for technologies accepted into the EPA Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program.

EPA will issue four Phase I Solicitations in 2003—Monitoring and Control of Air Pollution, Technology Solutions for Western USA Environmental Problems, Building Decontamination, and the Regular Solicitation. All solicitations will open on March 27, 2003, and close on May 23, 2003. Last year's Phase I solicitation describes the SBIR Program, application requirements, and all research topics. If you need a faxed copy or if you have any questions, call the EPA HELPLINE at: **(800) 490-9194**. Last year's solicitation also is available on the EPA Web Site. The four new SBIR solicitations will be available on March 27 by calling the HELPLINE or by visiting the EPA Web Site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir>



EPA'S SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH (SBIR) PROGRAM

NEW PHASE I SOLICITATION SCHEDULE

EPA's SBIR Program provides financial support to help small science- and technology-based firms develop new environmental technologies and ready them for commercialization. The program targets research to prevent pollution, reduce water and air pollution, manage solid and hazardous wastes, and improve environmental monitoring—in each case, addressing priorities that are based on the Agency's Strategic Plan. In 2003, EPA will issue four (4) Phase I Solicitations. There will be three special solicitations—Monitoring and Control of Air Pollution, Technology Solutions for Western USA Environmental Problems, Building Decontamination—and the regular SBIR Solicitation. The special solicitations are designed to meet the pressing needs of EPA, including EPA's Office of Air Quality, Planning and Standards (OAQPS) and EPA Region VIII. The opening and closing dates are the same for all Phase I solicitations, and Phase I contracts will be awarded for \$70,000 and will typically have a period of performance of 6 months. The regular solicitation will cover all other EPA research topics and it will NOT include the OAQPS or Region VIII topics. The 2003 Phase I Solicitation Schedule is as follows:

MONITORING AND CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

(Subtopics under development. MAY include Monitoring for Particulate Matter, Air Toxics, Air Pollution Prevention, Reduction of Sulfur Dioxide and Nitrogen Oxide Emissions, etc.)

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR WESTERN USA ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

(Subtopics under development. MAY include Mining Wastewater and Waste Management, Controls for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, Coal Bed Methane, Clean Water, etc.)

BUILDING DECONTAMINATION

(Subtopics under development. MAY include Biological Monitoring, Decontamination Systems, Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Agents, etc.)

REGULAR PHASE I SOLICITATION (Excludes the Subtopics described above)

(Subtopics: Nanomaterials and Clean Technology, Control of Mobile Source Emissions, Drinking Water and Municipal/Industrial Wastewater Treatment, Solid Waste Recycling, Hazardous Waste Management and Site Remediation, and Monitoring and Measurement Technologies)

PHASE I OPENS: MARCH 27, 2003

CLOSING DATE: MAY 23, 2003

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